

MARVEL

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT

HOUSER • FAILLA • ROSENBERG



MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- FANG, NUDGE, IGGY, GASMAN, AND ANGEL -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

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ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL *MAXIMUM RIDE: SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS* BY JAMES PATTERSON



AFTER DEFEATING HER CLONE AND ESCAPING THE CLUTCHES OF THE **ITEX** CORPORATION, **MAXIMUM RIDE** AND THE FLOCK HAVE BEEN LIVING A PEACEFUL, IF NOMADIC, EXISTENCE. A SHOW-OFF FLYBY OF A SPORTS STADIUM PUT THEM ON THE PUBLIC'S RADAR, WHICH CAUSED THE MYSTERIOUS **VOICE** IN MAX'S HEAD TO RETURN WITH A NEW MESSAGE: THE **ERASERS**, THE WINGED HUNTERS SENT BY ITEX TO HUNT THE FLOCK, HAVE ALL BEEN KILLED.

THINKING THIS IS THEIR CHANCE FOR A NORMAL LIFE, MAX AND **FANG** WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF A HOME WHERE THE FLOCK COULD PERMANENTLY SETTLE DOWN. ON THEIR JOURNEY, MAX RECOGNIZED THE HOUSE OF **DR. MARTINEZ**, AN OLD MENTOR WHO ONCE TOOK HER IN. TIRED OF LIVING HER LIFE BY OTHERS' RULES, MAX TOOK THIS CHANCE TO ASK DR. MARTINEZ TO REMOVE THE MICROCHIP IN HER ARM THAT MAX SUSPECTED ALLOWED THE VOICE TO CONTACT HER.

WITH THE CHIP GONE, MAX NOW FACES THREE DISCOVERIES: THE SURGERY HAS PARALYZED HER HAND, THE VOICE IS STILL IN HER HEAD, AND IN HER ABSENCE, THE REST OF THE FLOCK HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!

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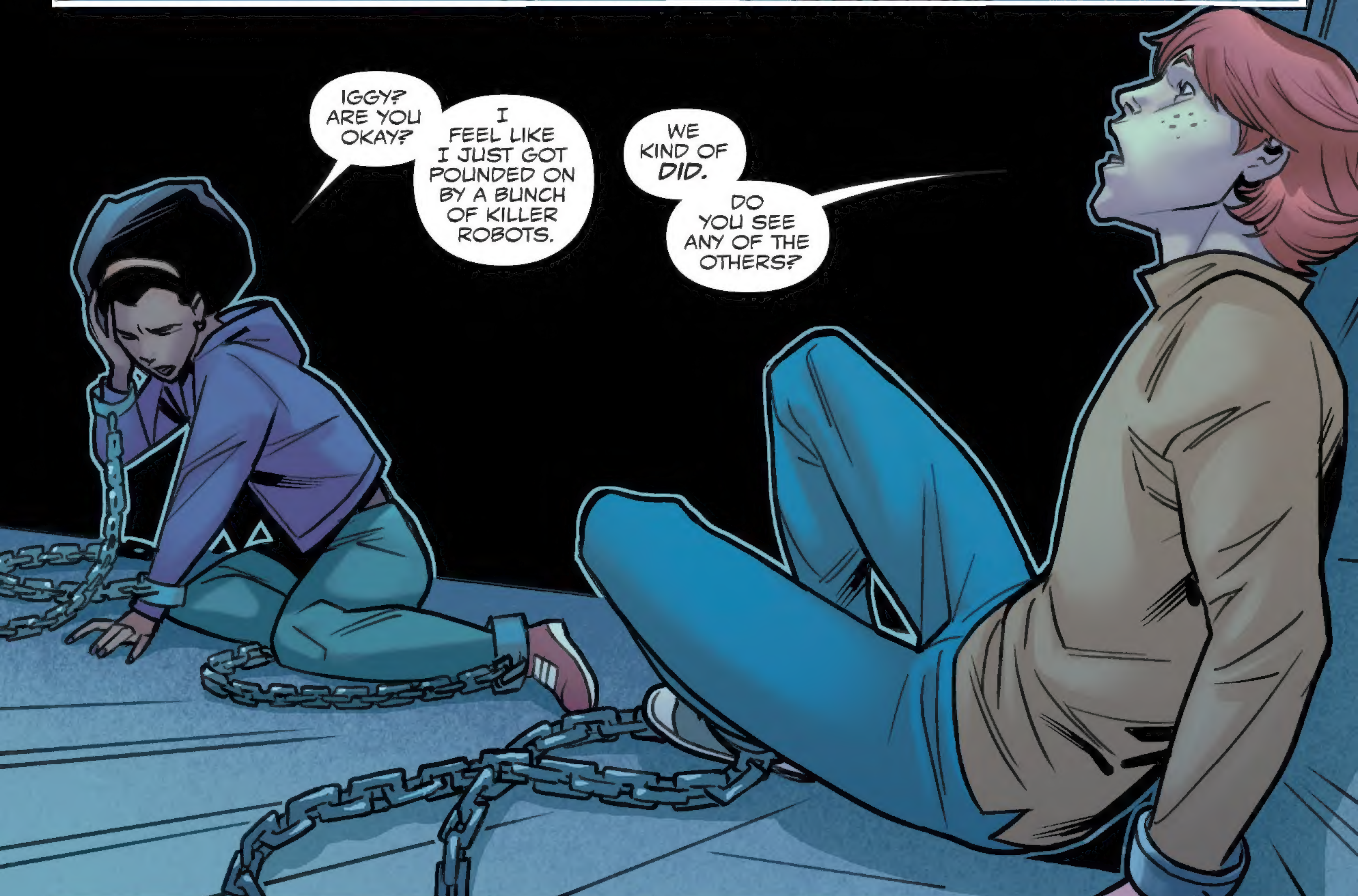
PUBLISHER DAN BUCKLEY



LIGHH...

WHAT THE
HECK?

NUDGE?
IS THAT
YOU?



IGGY?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

I
FEEL LIKE
I JUST GOT
POUNDED ON
BY A BUNCH
OF KILLER
ROBOTS.

WE
KIND OF
DID.

DO
YOU SEE
ANY OF THE
OTHERS?



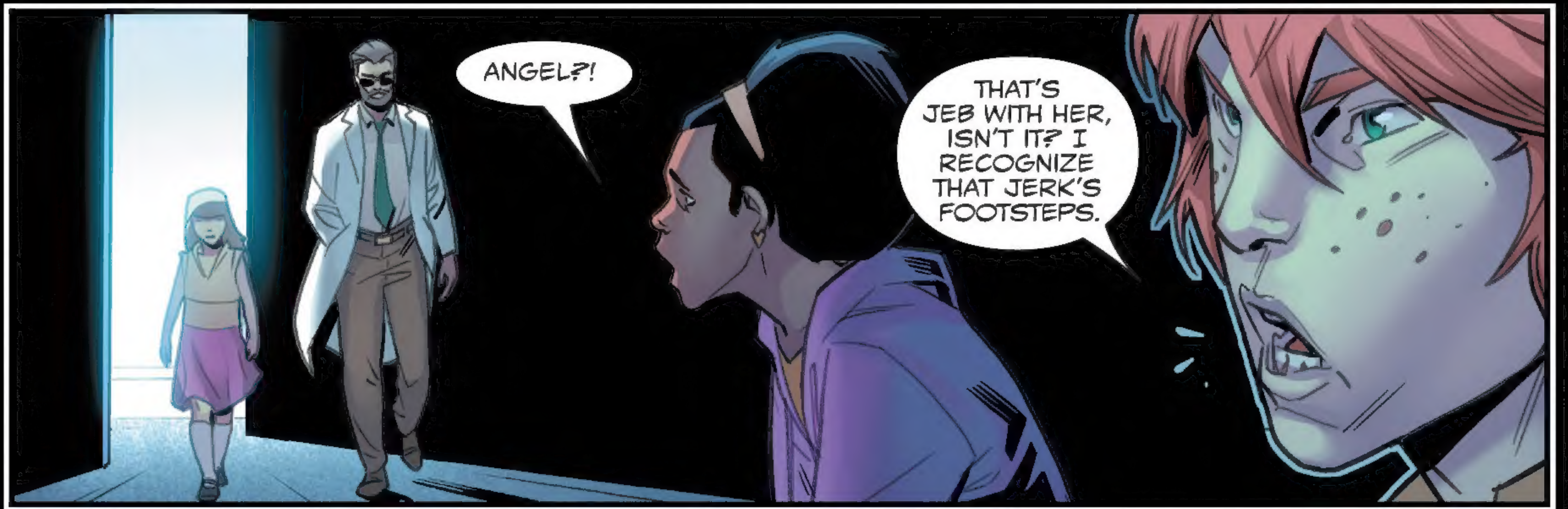
I CAN
SEE GAZZY
OVER THERE.
HE'S STILL
OUT.

BUT
THAT'S IT. YOU
DON'T THINK
ANGEL AND
TOTAL...



I LOST TRACK
OF THEM DURING THE
FIGHT, BUT I'M SURE
THEY'RE OKAY.

ANGEL'S
SMART. AND
THEY PROBABLY
DON'T EVEN
WANT THE
DOG.





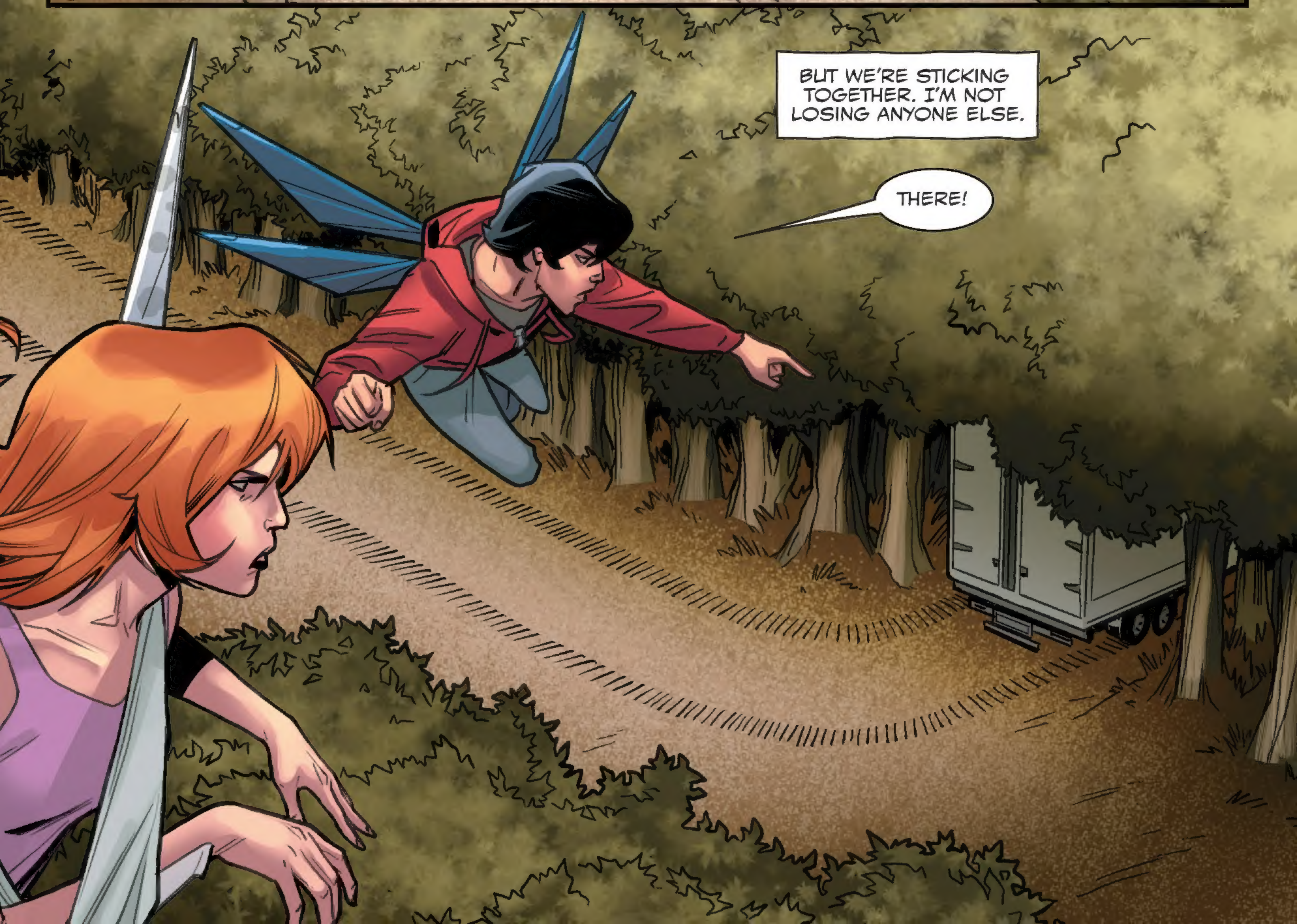
OUR FAMILY
IS MISSING.
AND IT'S ALL
OUR FAULT.

FANG AND I
WERE SEARCHING
FOR A PLACE FOR
THE FLOCK TO
SETTLE DOWN.
SOMETHING I
WAS AGAINST IN
THE FIRST PLACE.



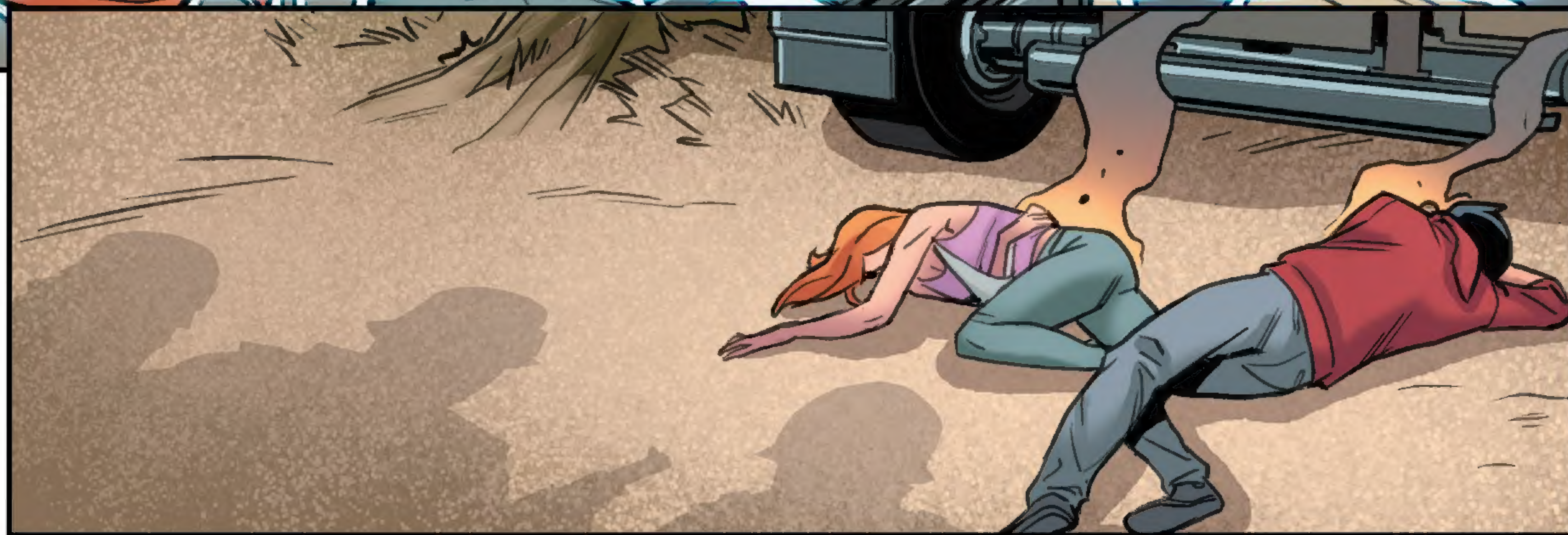
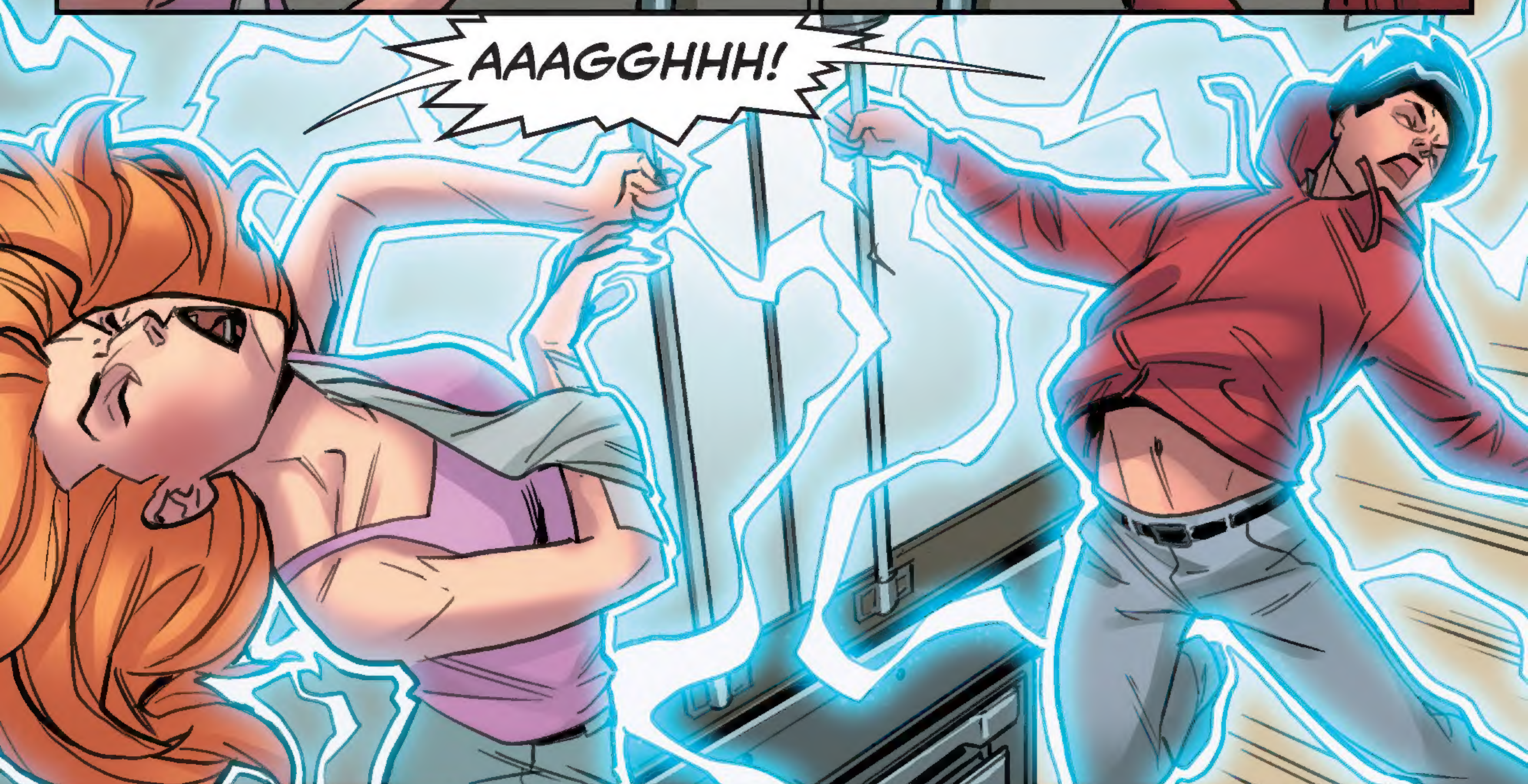
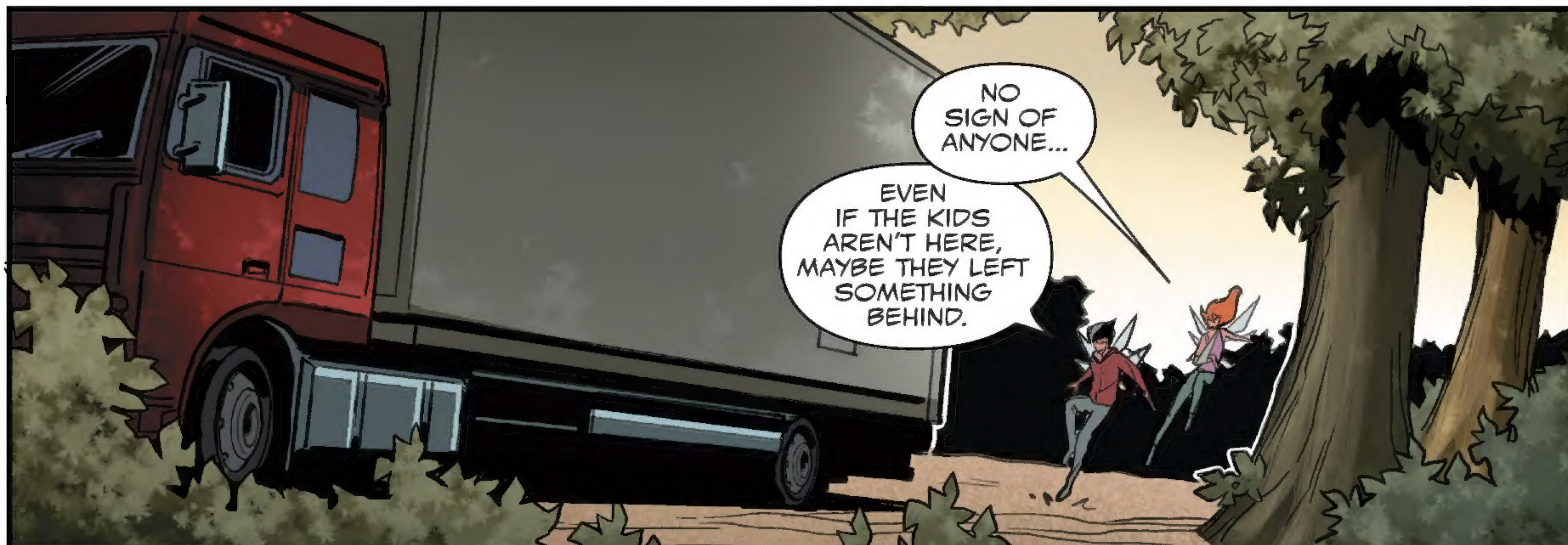
WHEN WE CAME
BACK, THE YOUNGER
KIDS WERE GONE.

I'M FASTER THAN
ANY TRUCK. I COULD
CATCH UP EASILY IF
I LEFT FANG BEHIND.



BUT WE'RE STICKING
TOGETHER. I'M NOT
LOSING ANYONE ELSE.

THERE!



I'VE WOKEN
UP LIKE THIS
TOO MANY TIMES
IN MY LIFE.

AND I'VE WOKEN
UP **HERE** TOO
MANY TIMES.

THE SCHOOL.
WHERE WE WERE
MADE AND TRAINED
AND TORTURED.

IS
EVERYONE
OKAY?

FINE.
HUMILIATED,
BUT FINE.

I
WANT ANGEL
BACK.

ANGEL?!
WHERE IS
SHE?!

SHE'S A TRAITOR.
WENT OVER TO THE
DARK SIDE AND
EVERYTHING.

SHE WAS
WITH JEB, MAX.
SHE SAID SHE
WAS GOING TO
KILL US. HER
VOICE...

SHE...
WHAT?



AH, GOOD.
EVERYONE'S
AWAKE.

THESE TWO. **THEY'RE**
THE TRAITORS. BOTH OF
THEM PRETENDED THEY
WERE FAMILY. THAT THEY
WANTED TO HELP US.

THEY TREATED US LIKE
WE HAD A CHANCE AT
A REAL LIFE. ALL WHILE
WORKING FOR THE
PEOPLE **HUNTING** US.

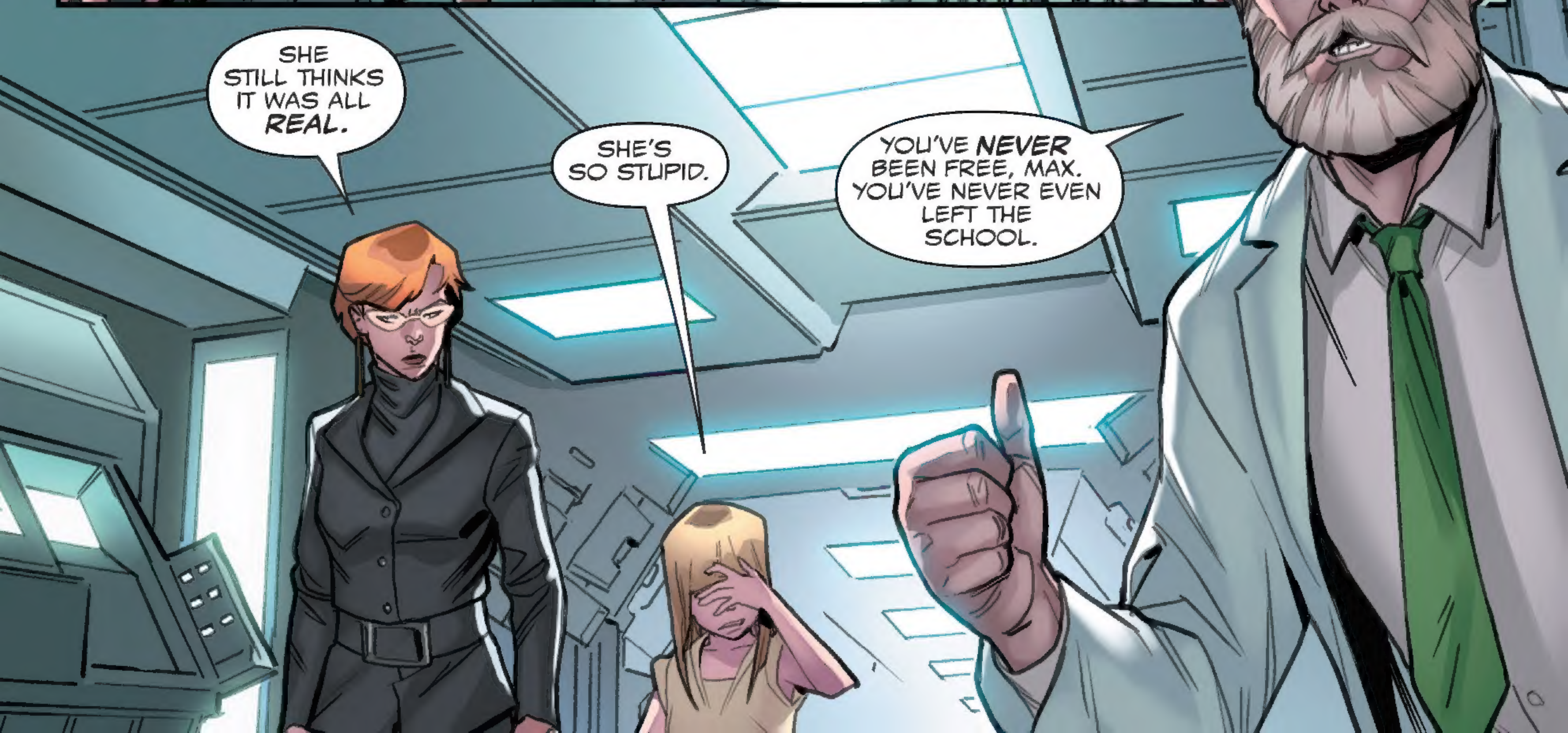


WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE TO
HER?! WHY COULDN'T
YOU JUST LEAVE
US ALONE!



ALONE?

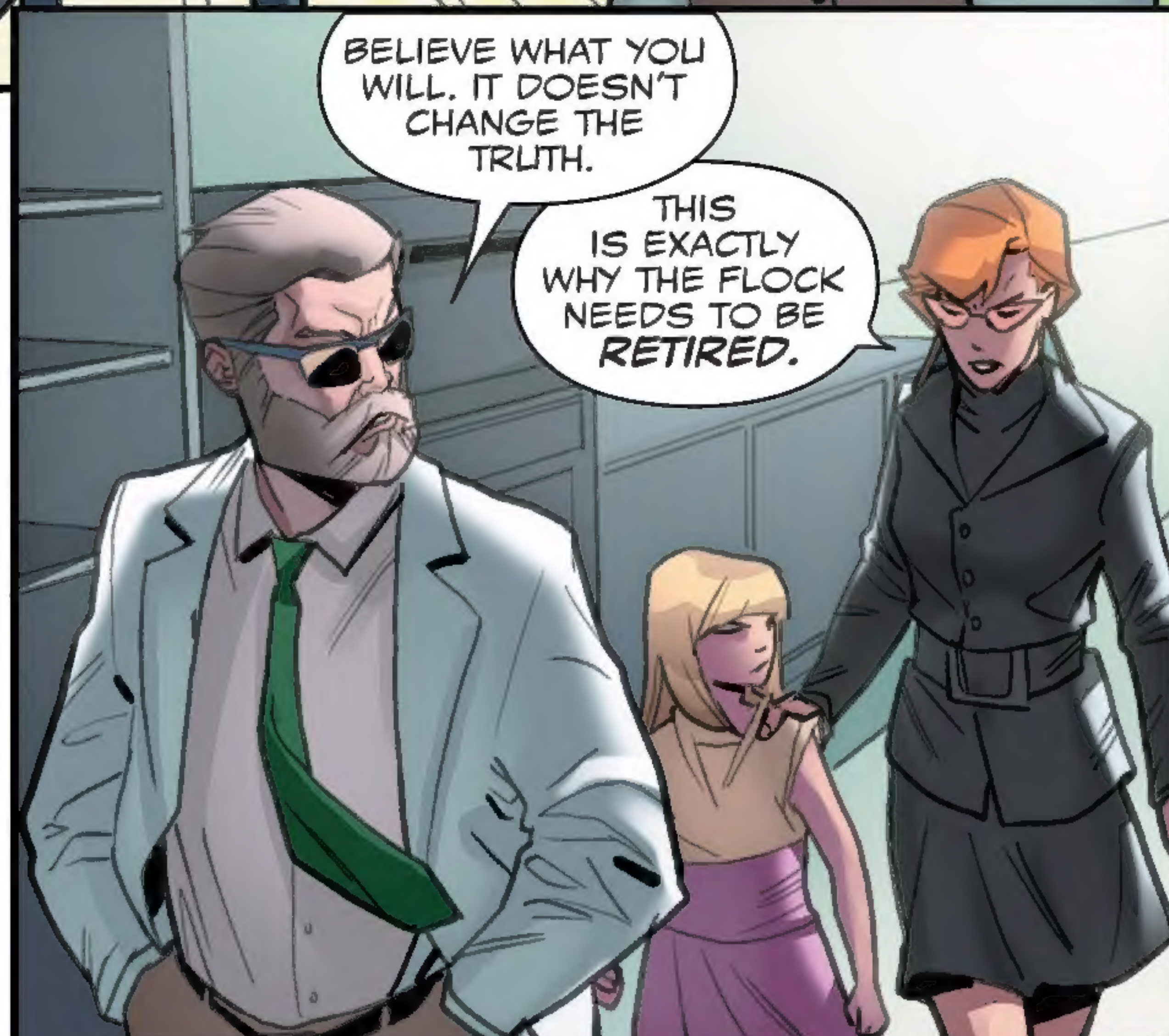
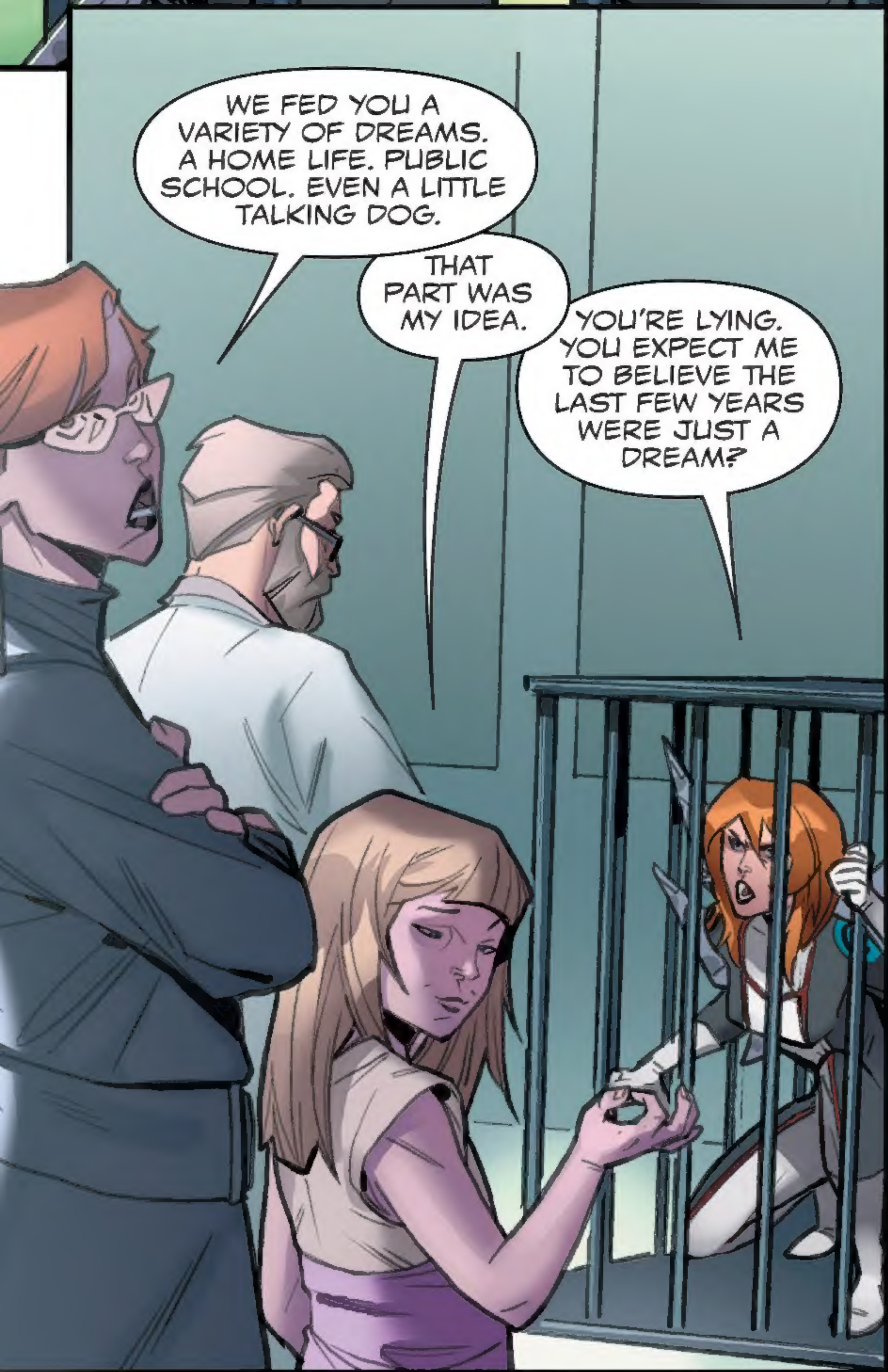
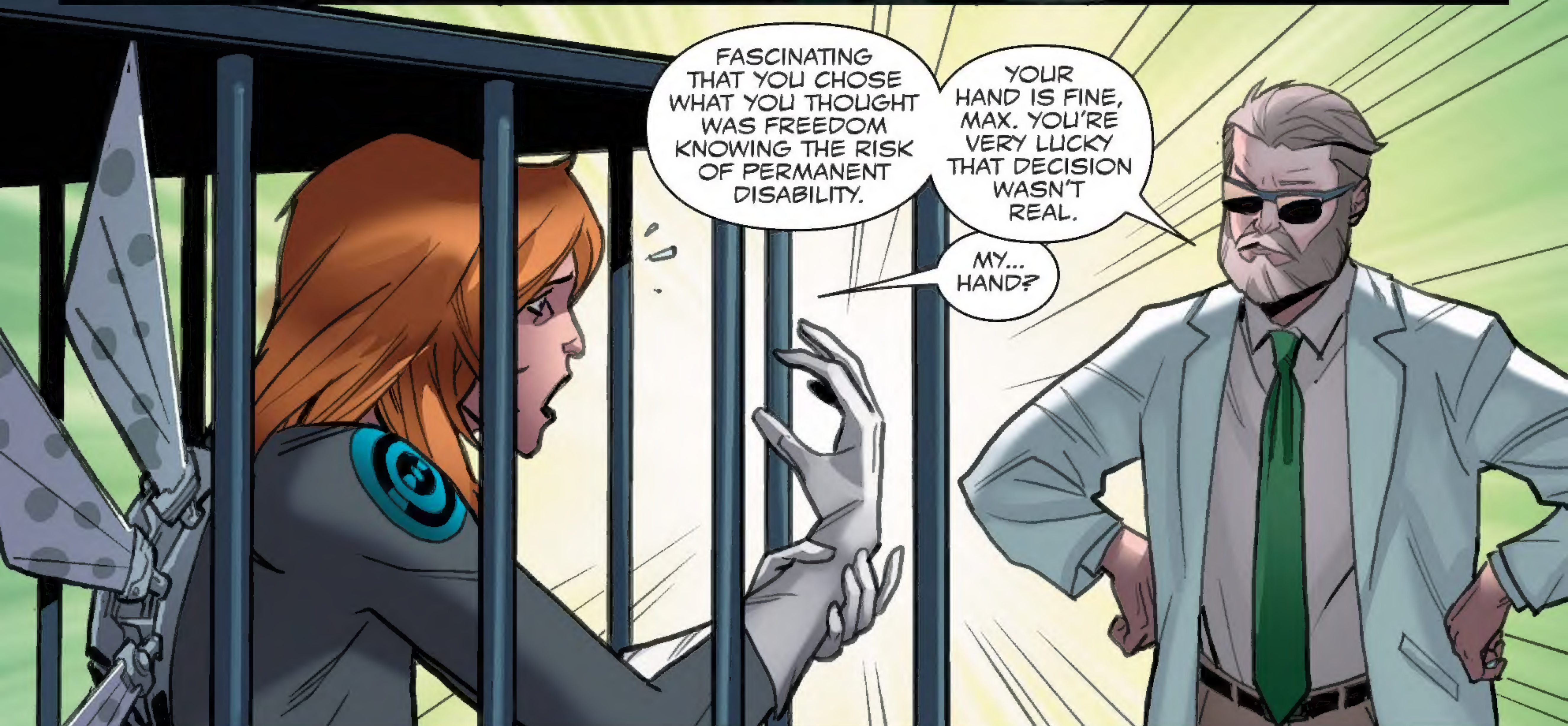
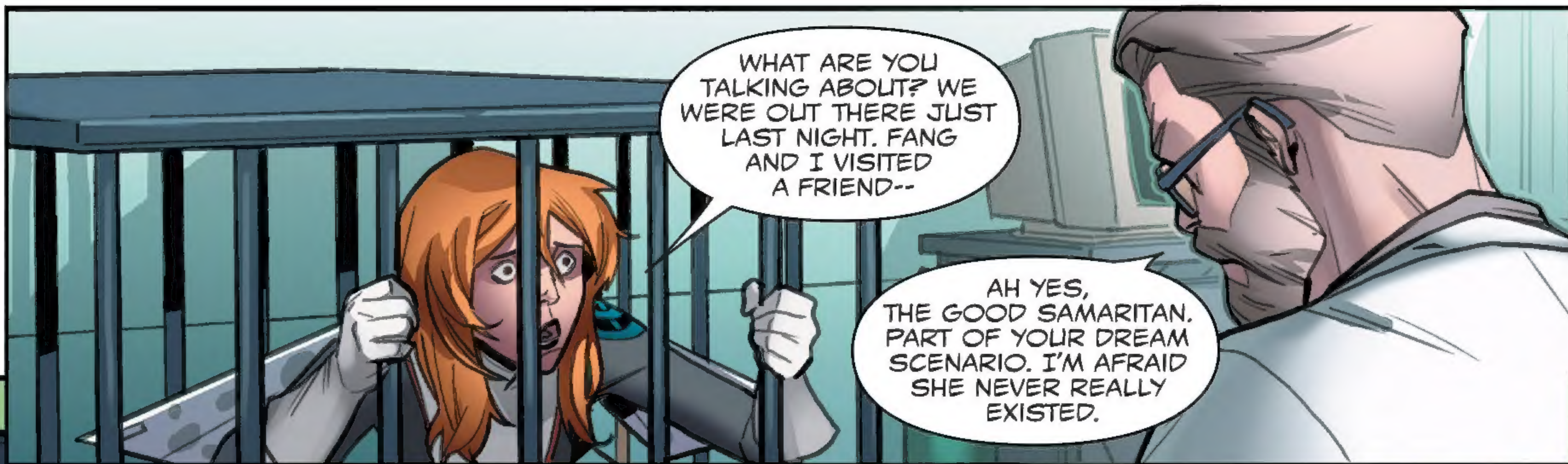
YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
BROKE US OUT
IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WE WERE FREE!
AND NOW YOU'VE
DRAGGED
US BACK
HERE!



SHE
STILL THINKS
IT WAS ALL
REAL.

SHE'S
SO STUPID.

YOU'VE **NEVER**
BEEN FREE, MAX.
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN
LEFT THE
SCHOOL.





LATER.

MAX?

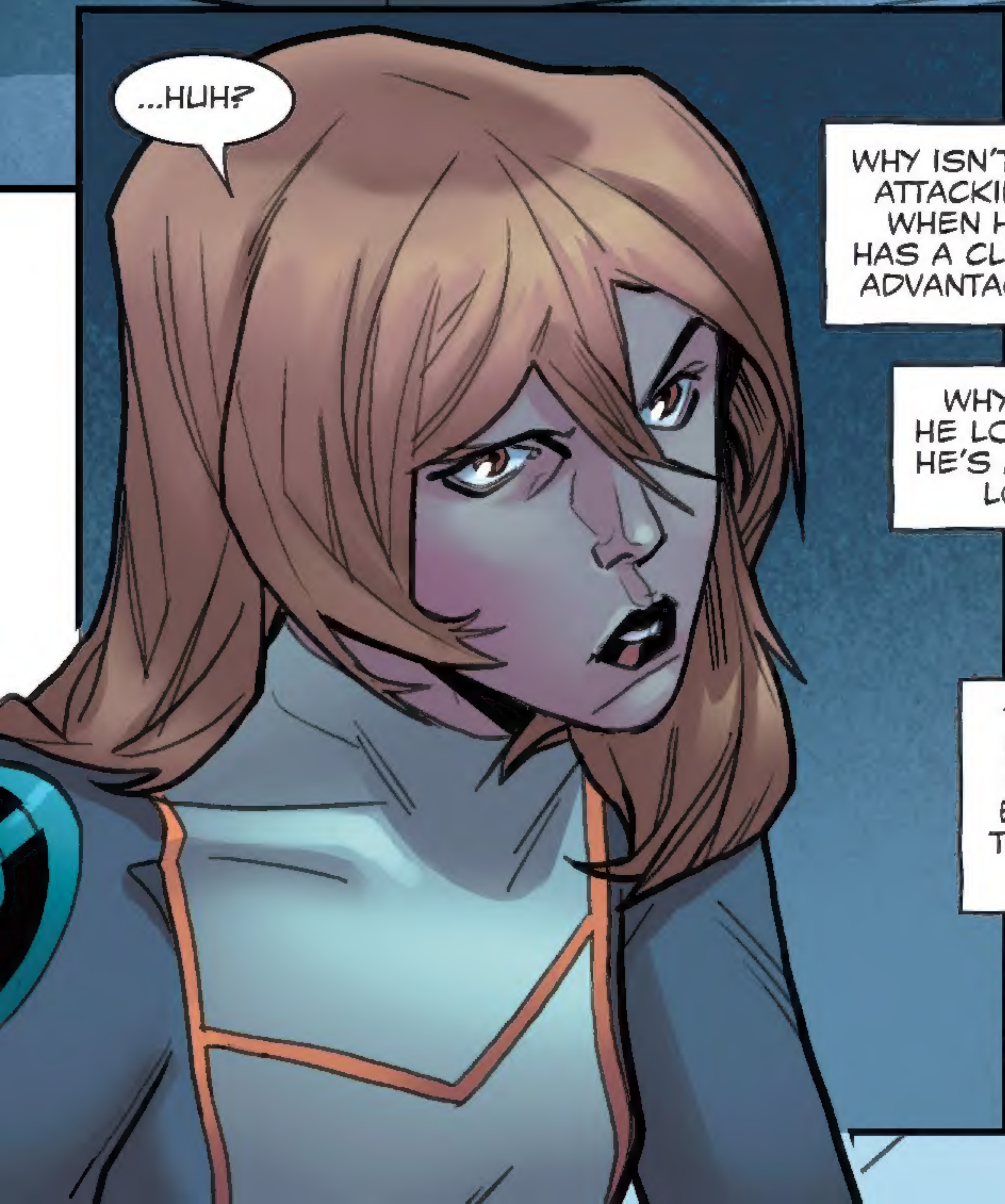


ARI. JEB'S LITTLE BOY BEFORE THE EXPERIMENTS MADE HIM INTO THIS MONSTER.

HE'S ALWAYS HATED ME. WANTED ME DEAD.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO FOR A WALK.

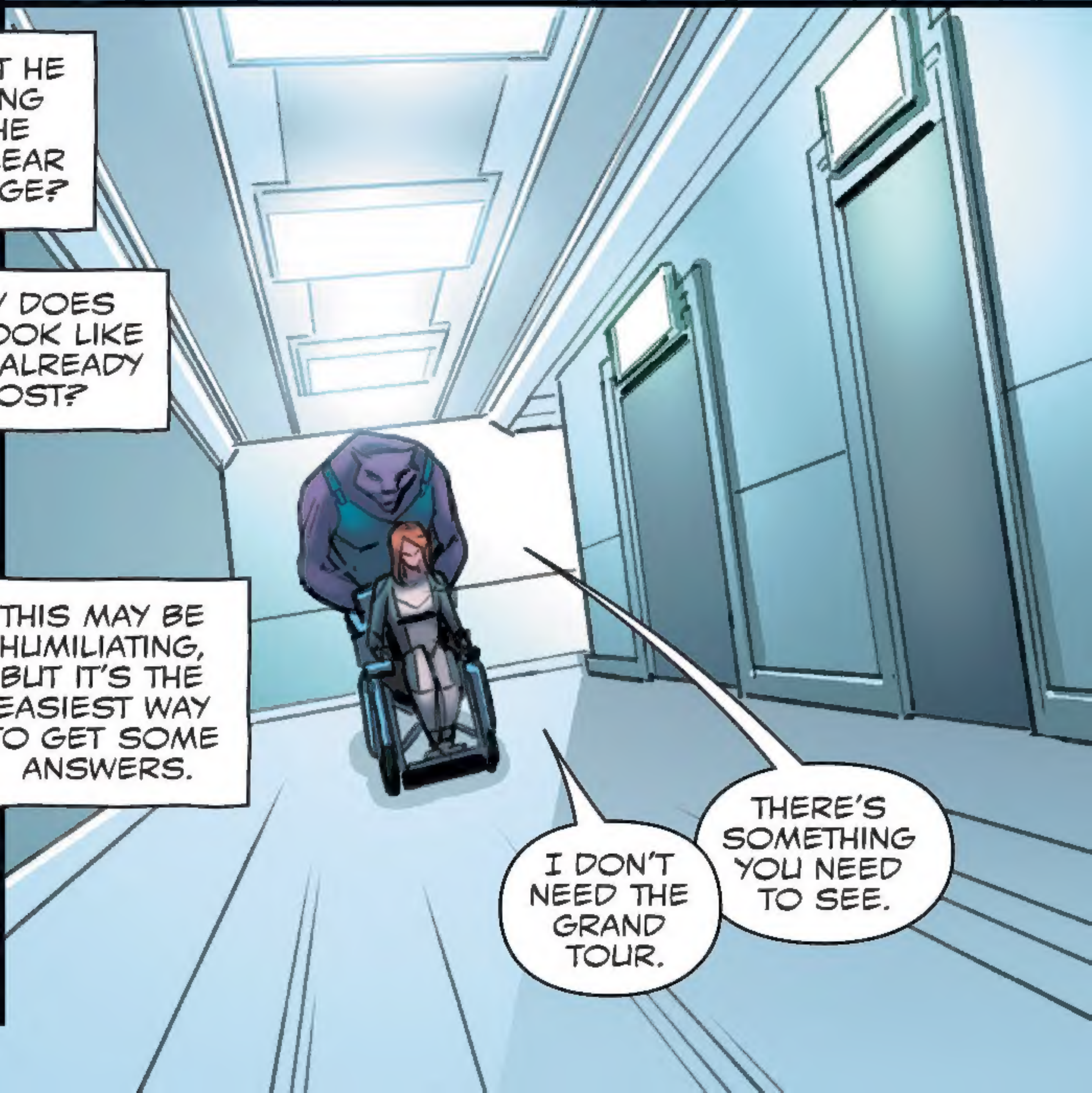


...HUH?

WHY ISN'T HE ATTACKING WHEN HE HAS A CLEAR ADVANTAGE?

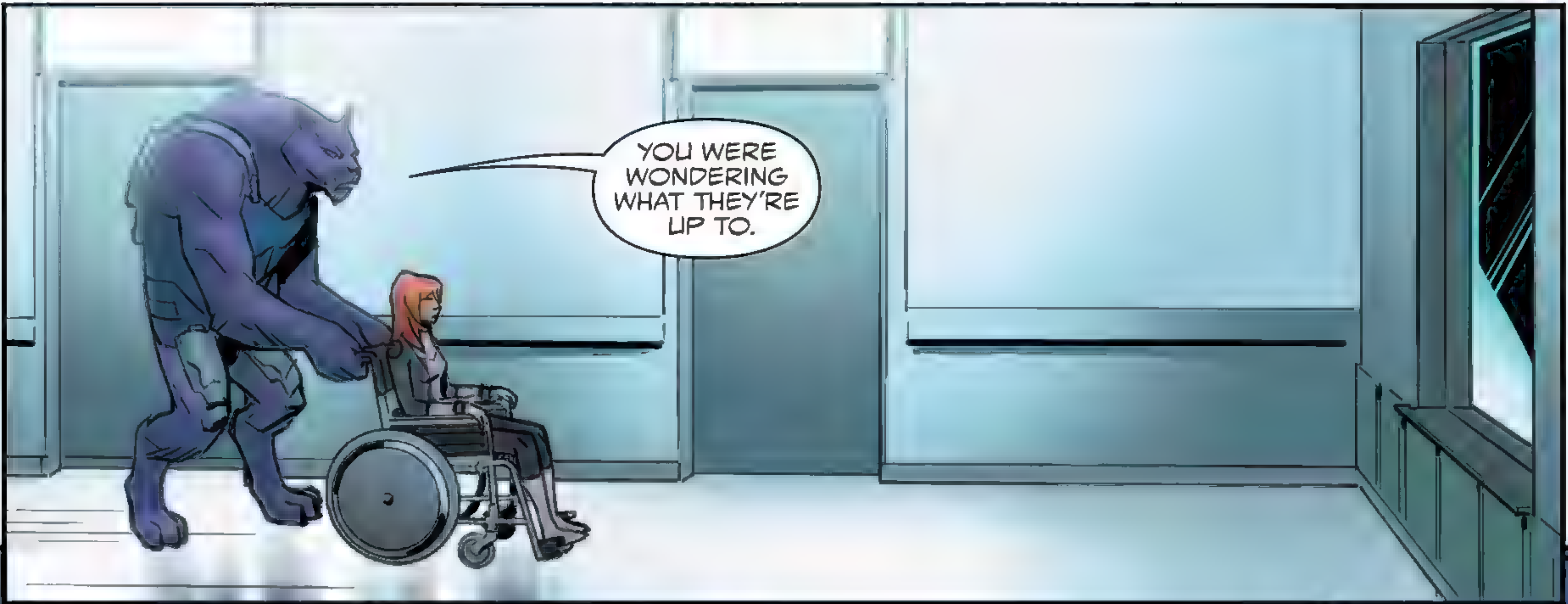
WHY DOES HE LOOK LIKE HE'S ALREADY LOST?

THIS MAY BE HUMILIATING, BUT IT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO GET SOME ANSWERS.

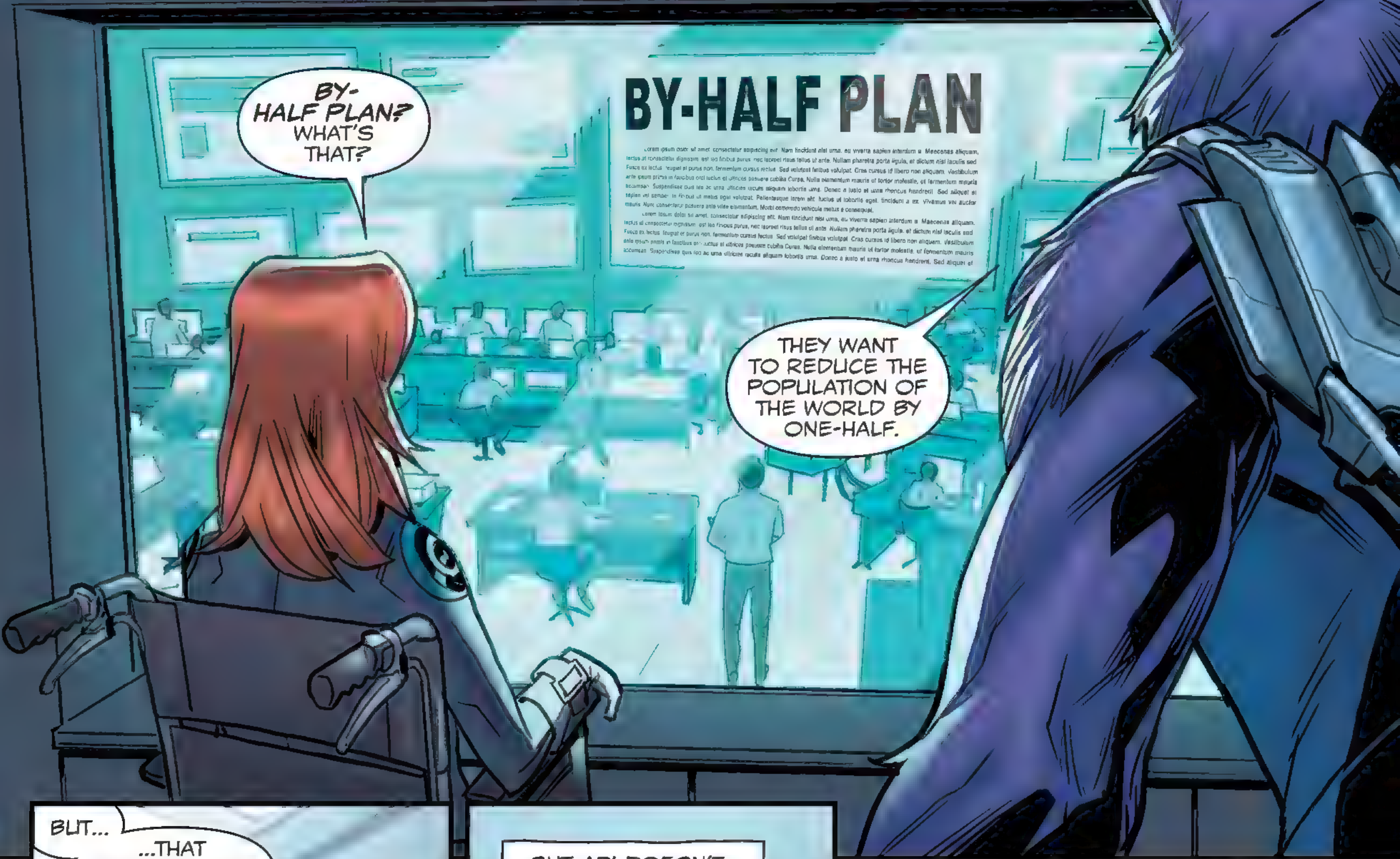


I DON'T NEED THE GRAND TOUR.

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE.



YOU WERE WONDERING WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.



BY-HALF PLAN? WHAT'S THAT?

BY-HALF PLAN

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECUTUR ADIPISCING ELIT. NAM INCIPIUNT NISI UNAM, EU VIVERRA SAPIEN INTERDUM A. MEECONAS ALIQUAM, TERTIO AT CONVALLIS DIGNISSIM. EST UNO FINIBUS PURUS, NEC LAPIDEI RIUS TELLUS UT ANTE. Nullam pharetra porta ligula, et dictum nisl taculis sed. Fusce ex lectus, "eugeni et purus non, fermentum cursus rectus. Sed velipati felibus volupat. Cras cursus id libero non aliquam. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae. Nulla nunciamt mauris ut tortor molestie, ut fermentum musula accumsan". Suspendisse quis sit de urna utitene occure aliquam lobortis urna. Donec a luctus et urna rhoncus hendrerit. Sed aliquet et sapien veli sames. In fructu ut metus eget volupat. Pellentesque lorum ante luctus ut lobortis eget. Incidunt a nec. Vivamus veni auctor mauris. Nunc conser-tetur puerum pita velle elementum. Morbi elementum vehicula metus a conser-tetur.

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECUTUR ADIPISCING ELIT. NAM INCIPIUNT NISI UNAM, EU VIVERRA SAPIEN INTERDUM A. MEECONAS ALIQUAM, TERTIO AT CONVALLIS DIGNISSIM. EST UNO FINIBUS PURUS, NEC LAPIDEI RIUS TELLUS UT ANTE. Nullam pharetra porta ligula, et dictum nisl taculis sed. Fusce ex lectus, "eugeni et purus non, fermentum cursus rectus. Sed velipati felibus volupat. Cras cursus id libero non aliquam. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae. Nulla nunciamt mauris ut tortor molestie, ut fermentum musula accumsan". Suspendisse quis sit de urna utitene occure aliquam lobortis urna. Donec a luctus et urna rhoncus hendrerit. Sed aliquet et sapien veli sames. In fructu ut metus eget volupat. Pellentesque lorum ante luctus ut lobortis eget. Incidunt a nec. Vivamus veni auctor mauris. Nunc conser-tetur puerum pita velle elementum. Morbi elementum vehicula metus a conser-tetur.

THEY WANT TO REDUCE THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD BY ONE-HALF.



BUT...

...THAT MEANS KILLING **BILLIONS** OF PEOPLE!

I KNOW.

THIS. THIS IS WHAT THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE IN MY HEAD WANTED ME TO STOP.



BUT ARI DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE VOICE. HE COULDN'T.

WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS?



I KNOW WE'RE ENEMIES, MAX. WE FIGHT AND FIGHT AND HURT EACH OTHER.

BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

I DISCOVERED **THIS**.



AREN'T YOU A LITTLE YOUNG FOR A TATTOO?

IT'S MY EXPIRATION DATE. IT'S RIGHT BEFORE MY BIRTHDAY.

I WANTED TO GET A TABLET, TOO.



SEVEN YEARS OLD, AS BIG AND AS MEAN AS THEY MADE HIM--

--AND IF HE'S RIGHT ABOUT THIS, HE'LL NEVER GET TO BE EIGHT.

IS THIS BECAUSE OF WHAT JEB DID TO YOU? THE EXPERIMENTS?

I THINK SO. ALL THE MUTANTS HAVE THEM.



WHEN YOU SEE THE MONSTER, IT'S TOO EASY TO FORGET THE LITTLE BOY HE USED TO BE.

ALL HE EVER WANTED TO DO WAS PLAY WITH US. FLY LIKE US. AND WE NEVER LET HIM.

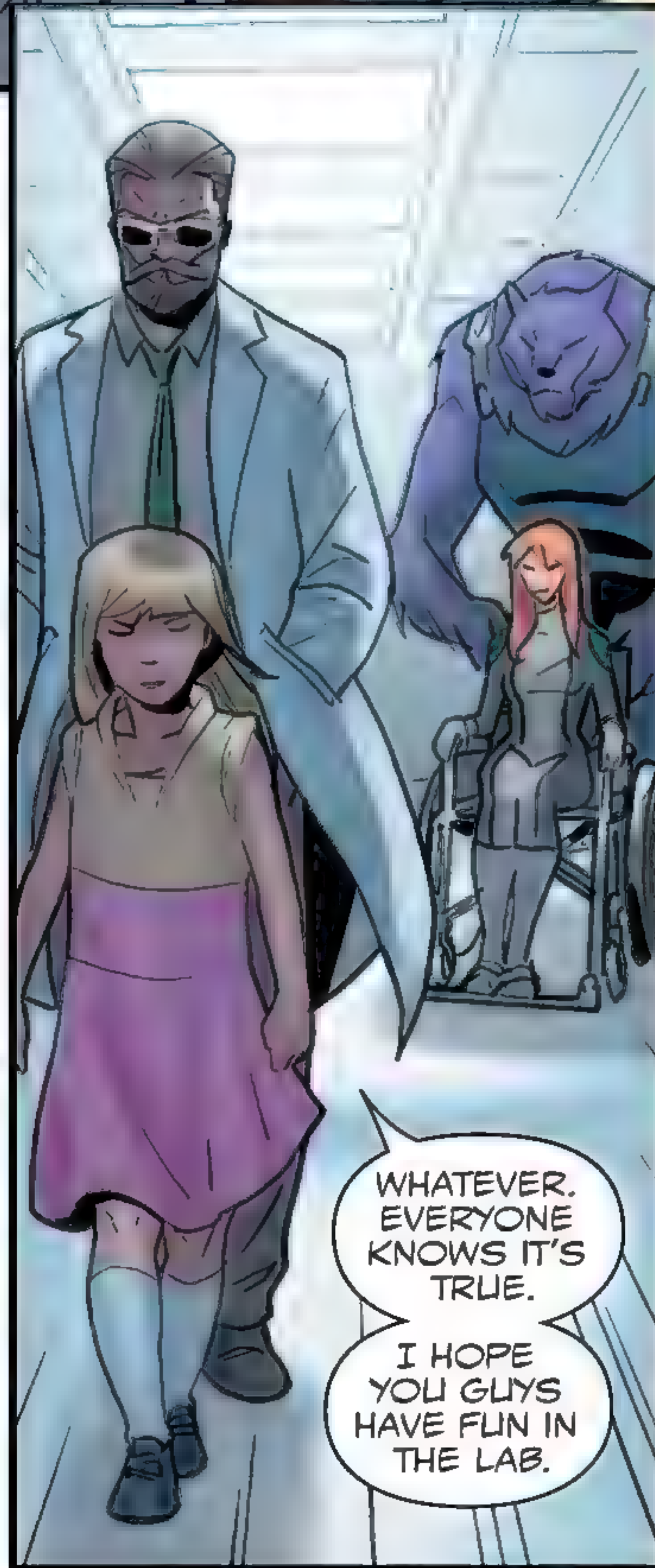


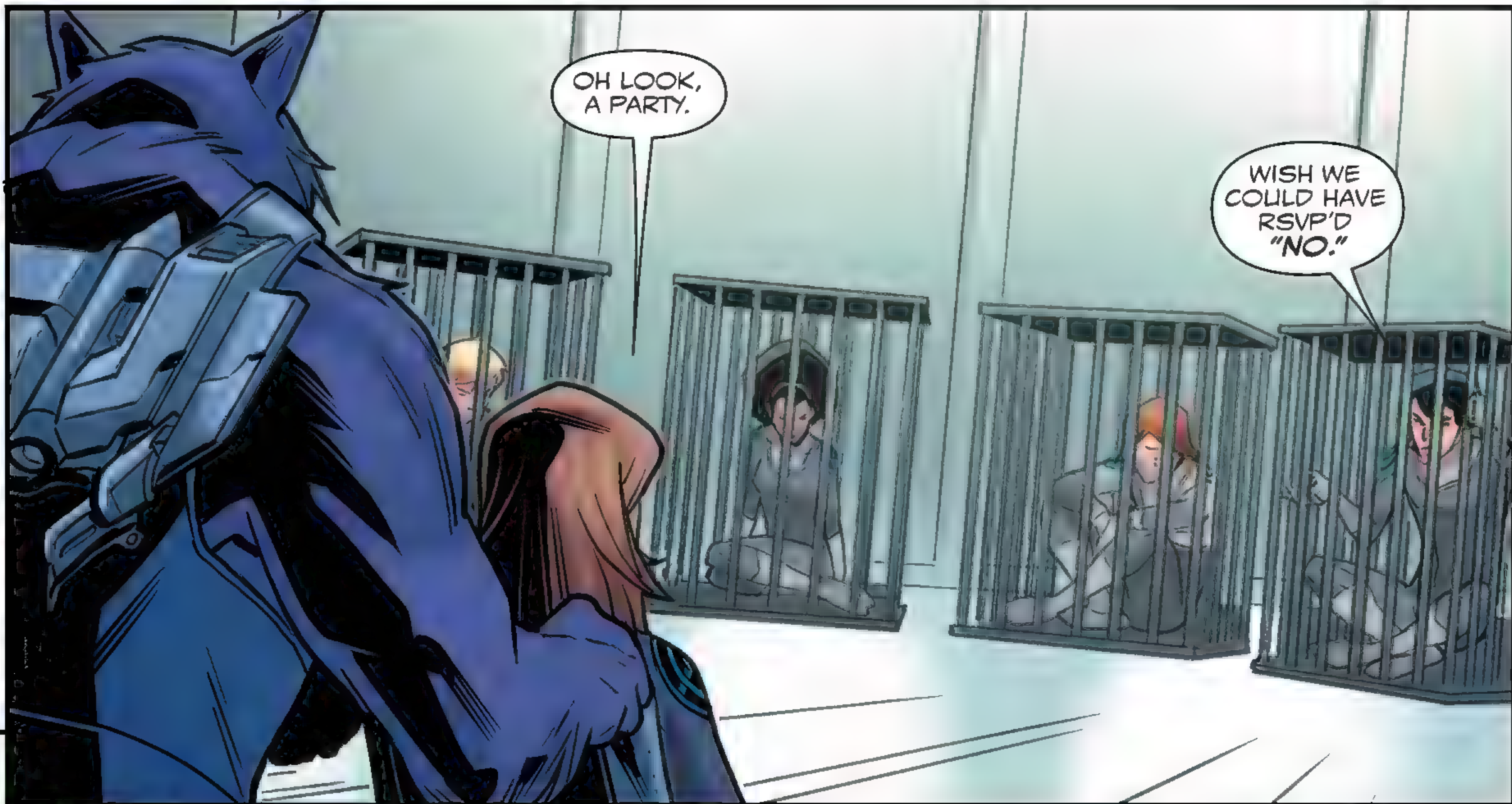
MAX, DO YOU THINK IF THINGS WERE DIFFERENT, WE COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS?



I WISH WE HAD BEEN, ARI.

I'M SORRY.





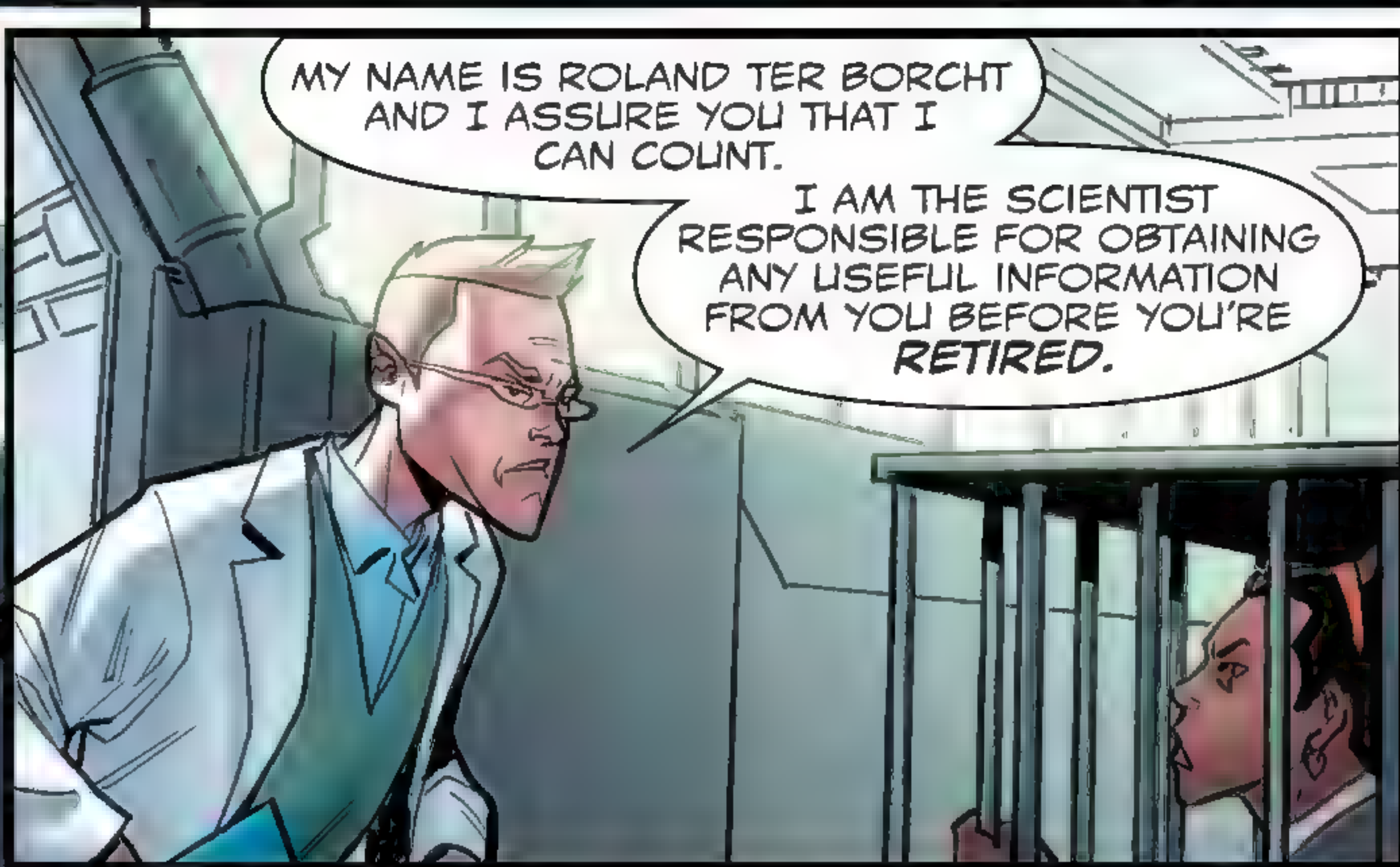
OH LOOK,
A PARTY.

WISH WE
COULD HAVE
RSVP'D
"NO."



AH,
WONDERFUL,
YOU ARE ALL
HERE.

ACTUALLY,
WE'RE SHORT
A **TRAITOR**. BUT
YOU LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE TOO
STUPID TO
COUNT.



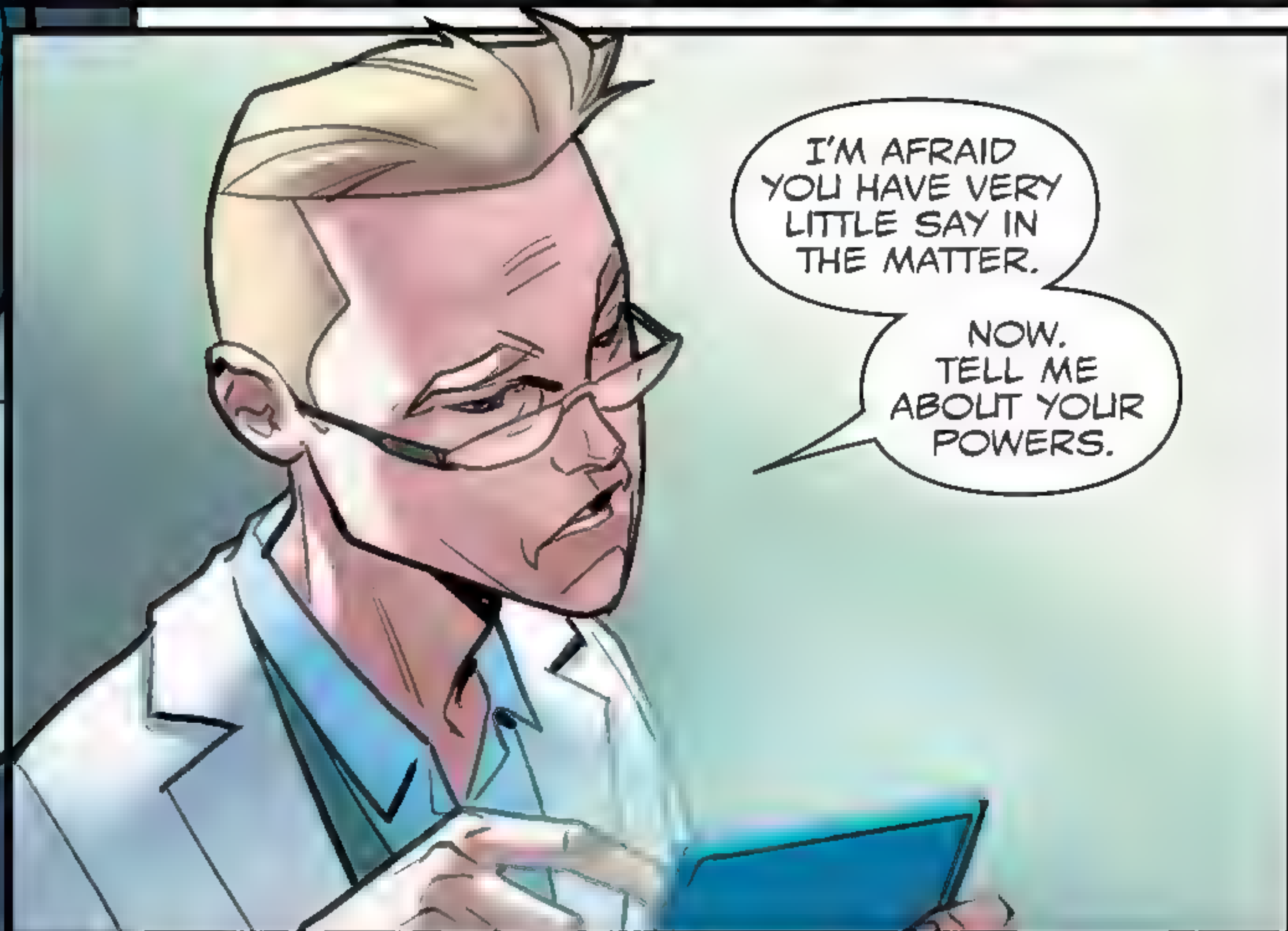
MY NAME IS ROLAND TER BORCHT
AND I ASSURE YOU THAT I
CAN COUNT.

I AM THE SCIENTIST
RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING
ANY USEFUL INFORMATION
FROM YOU BEFORE YOU'RE
RETIRED.



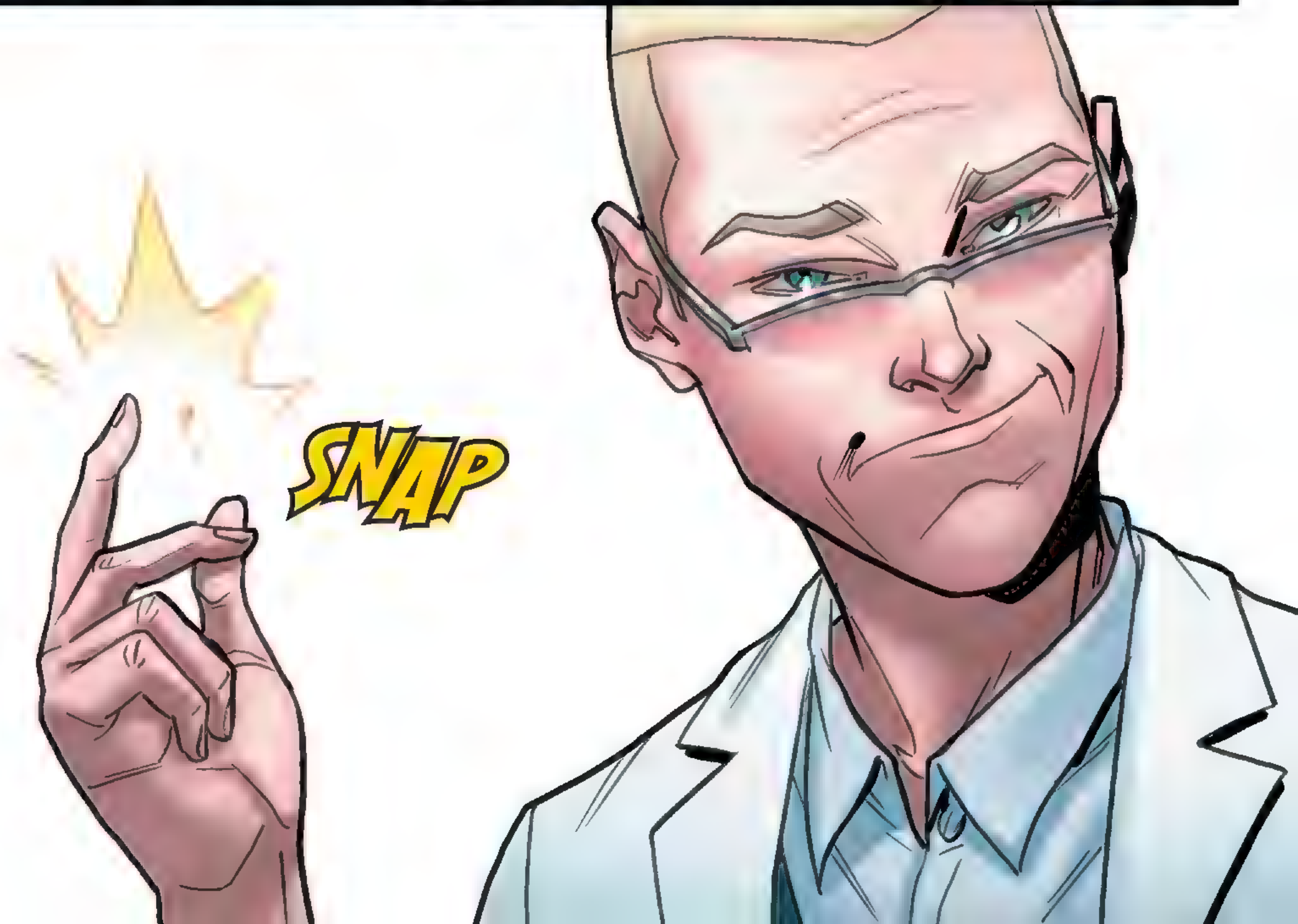
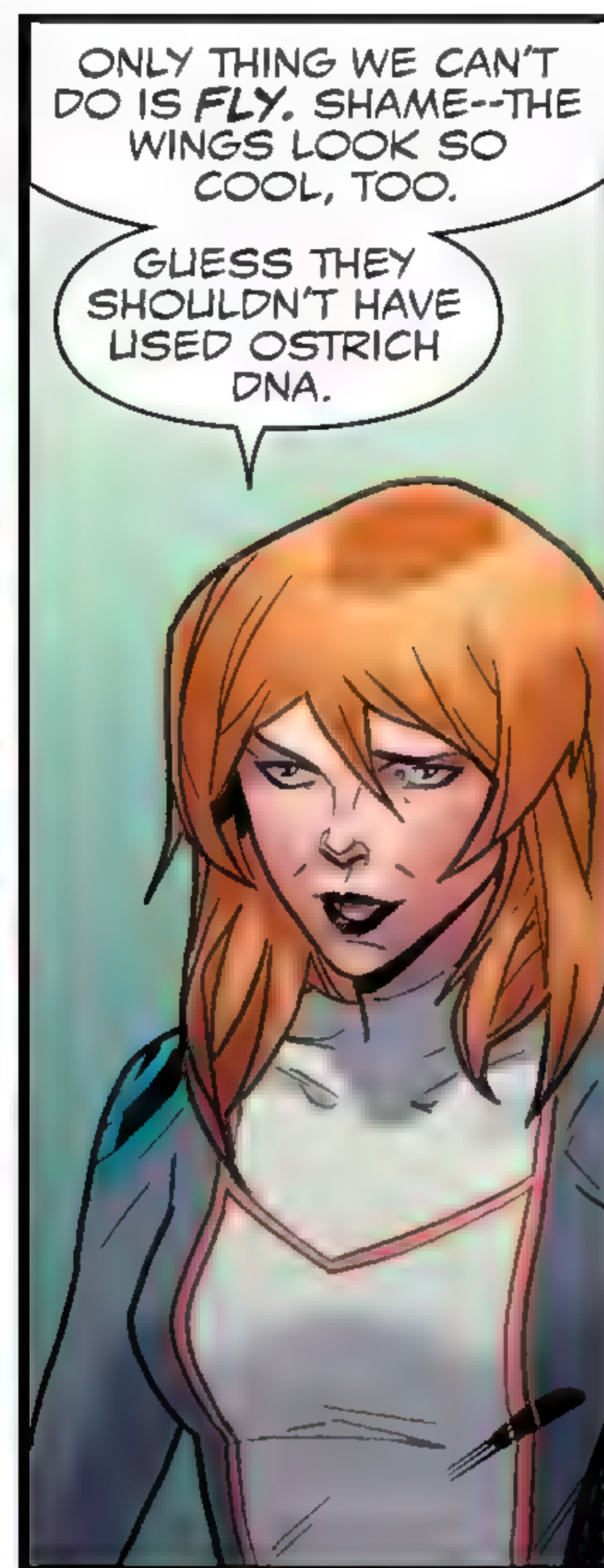
RETIRED?

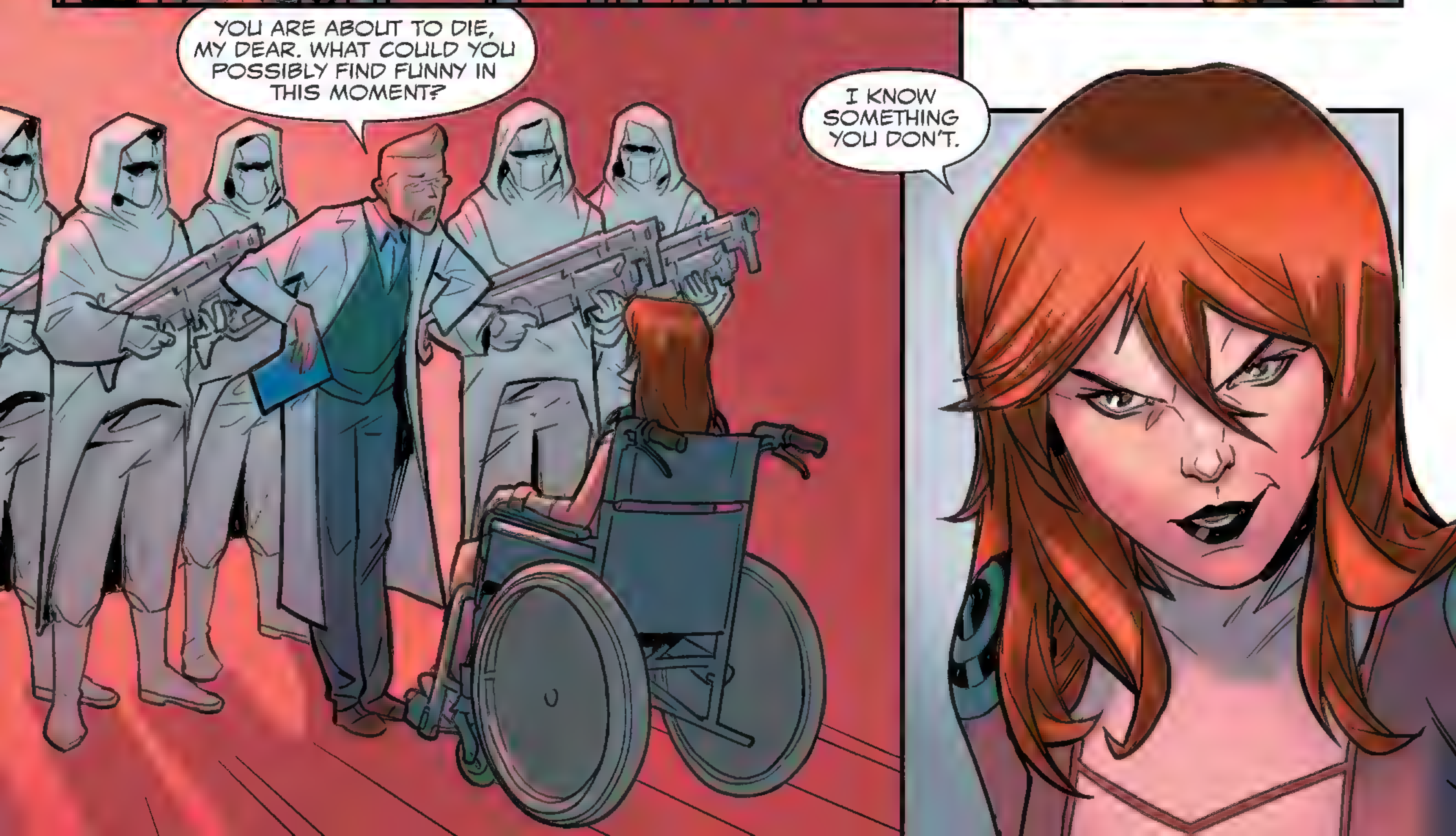
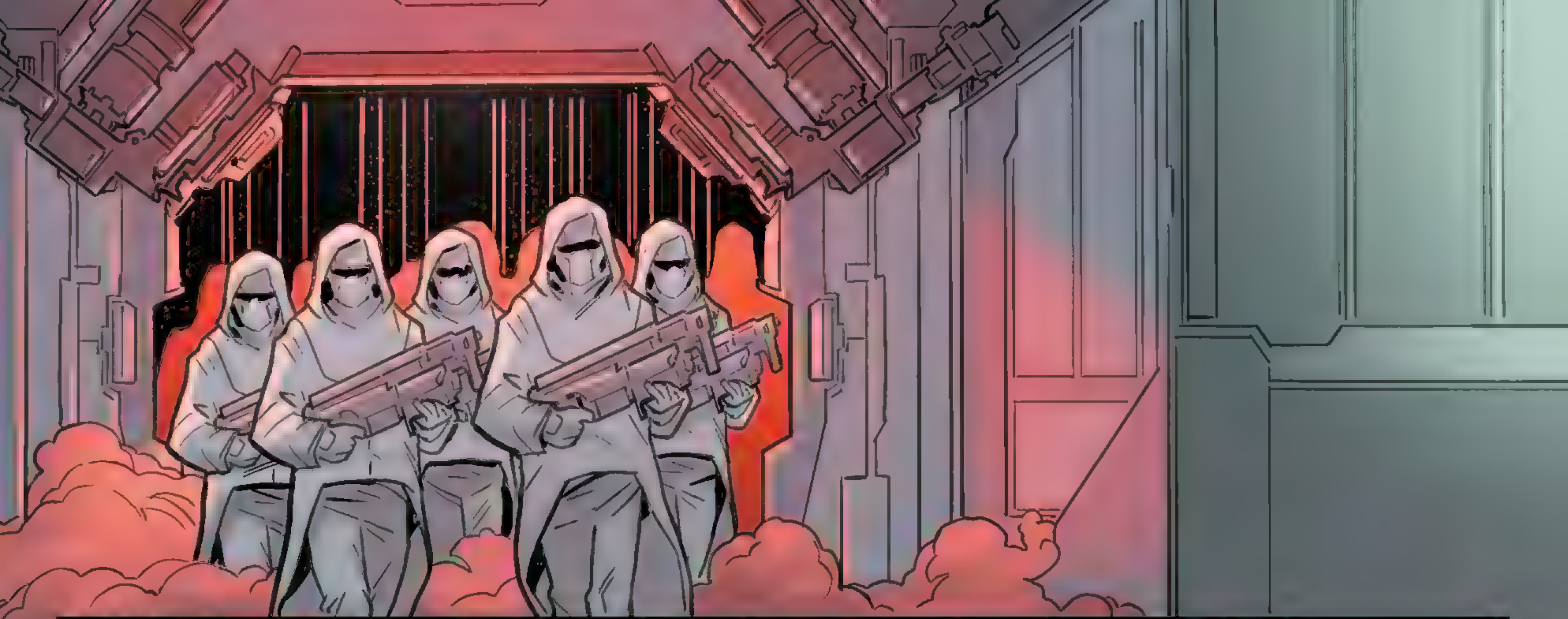
KILLED.
AND IT'S
NOT GONNA
HAPPEN.



I'M AFRAID
YOU HAVE VERY
LITTLE SAY IN
THE MATTER.

NOW.
TELL ME
ABOUT YOUR
POWERS.

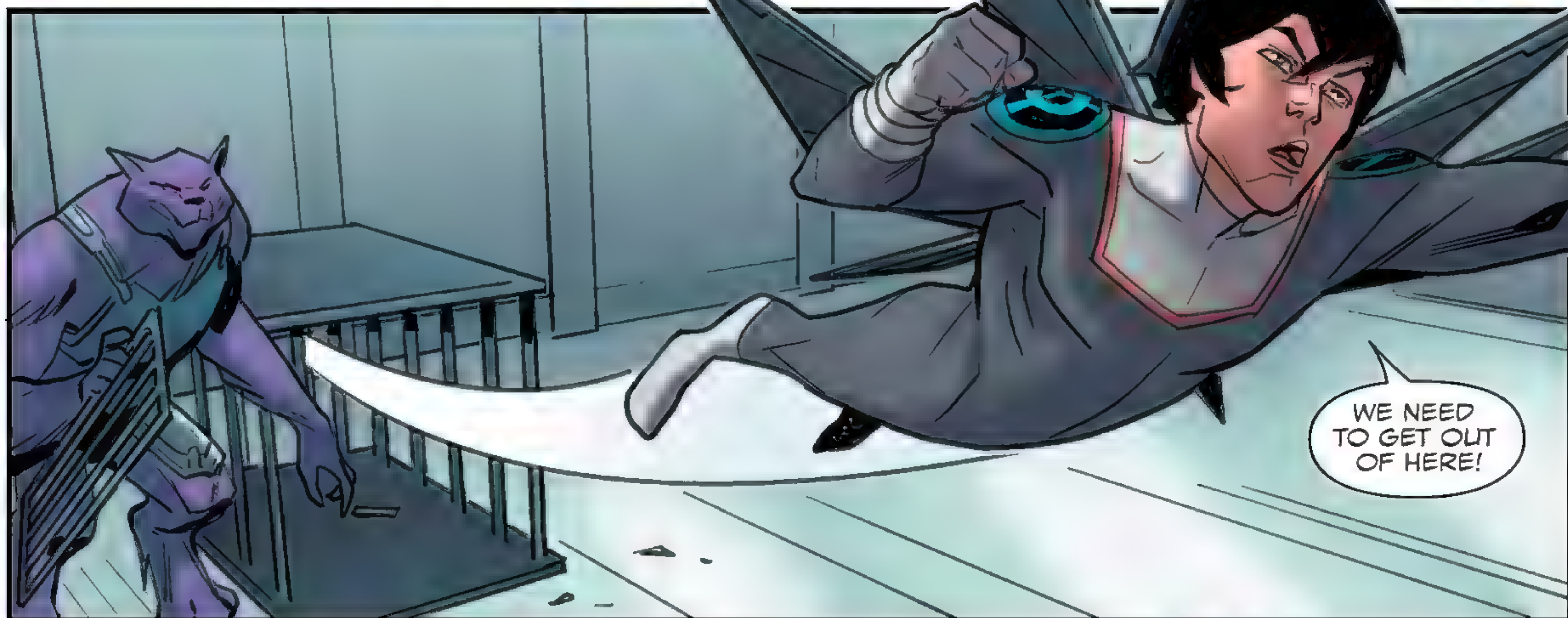
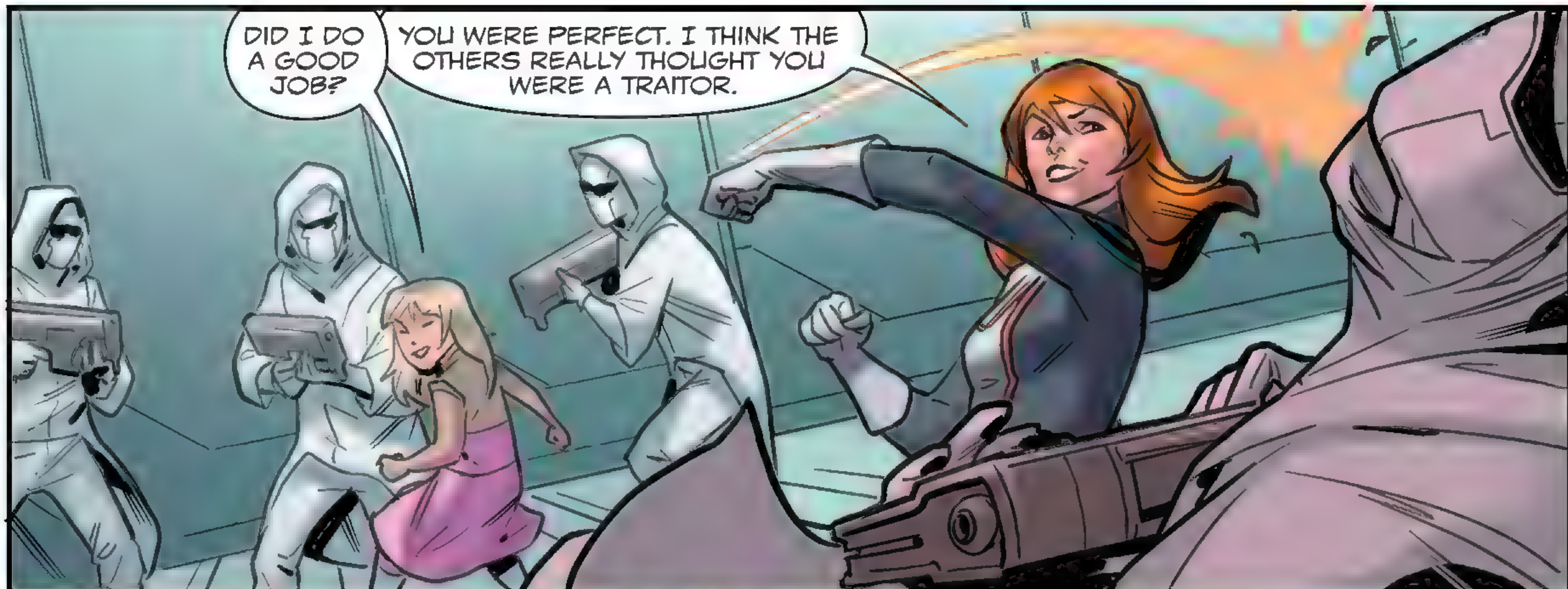






MISSED YOU TOO, TOTAL.

AND TO THINK THEY TRIED TO MAKE ME BELIEVE HE WASN'T REAL.



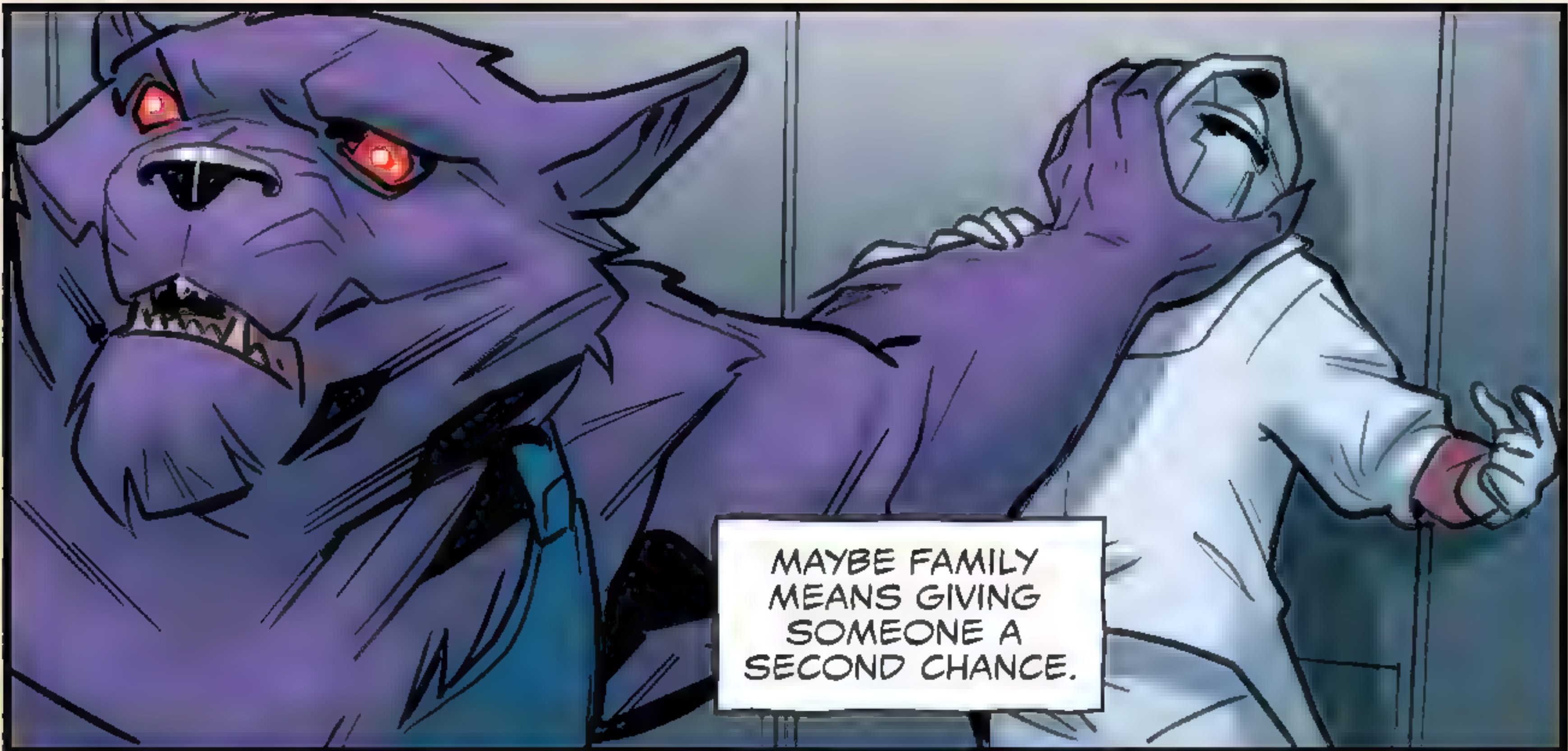


THIS IS THE WAY
IT'S SUPPOSED
TO BE. OUR
FAMILY, TOGETHER
AND FREE.

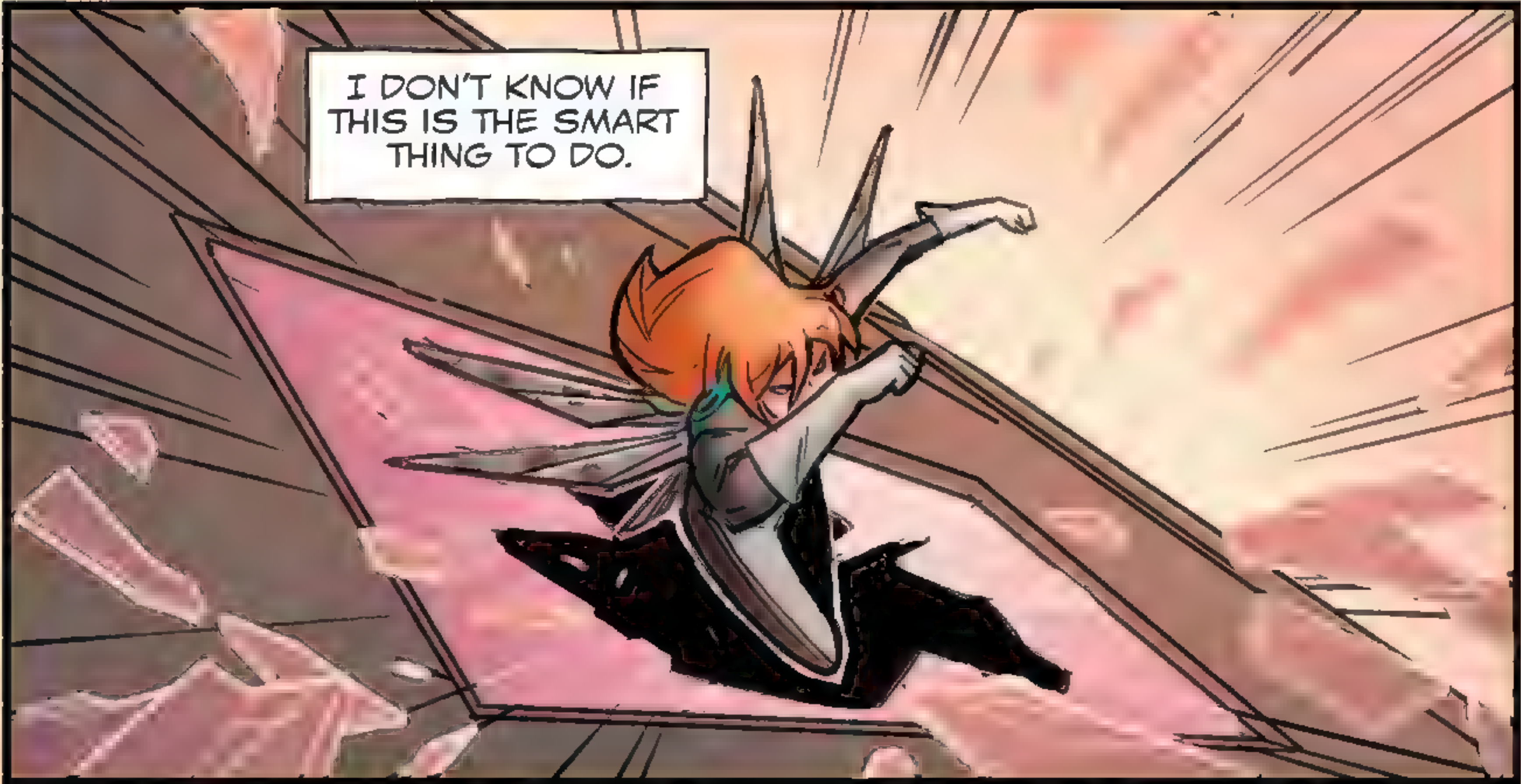


BUT MAYBE
THERE'S ROOM
FOR ONE MORE.

ARI!
COME
WITH
US!



MAYBE FAMILY
MEANS GIVING
SOMEONE A
SECOND CHANCE.



I DON'T KNOW IF
THIS IS THE SMART
THING TO DO.



BUT IT
FEELS
RIGHT.



WE NEED TIME TO REGROUP, PLAN OUR NEXT STEP.

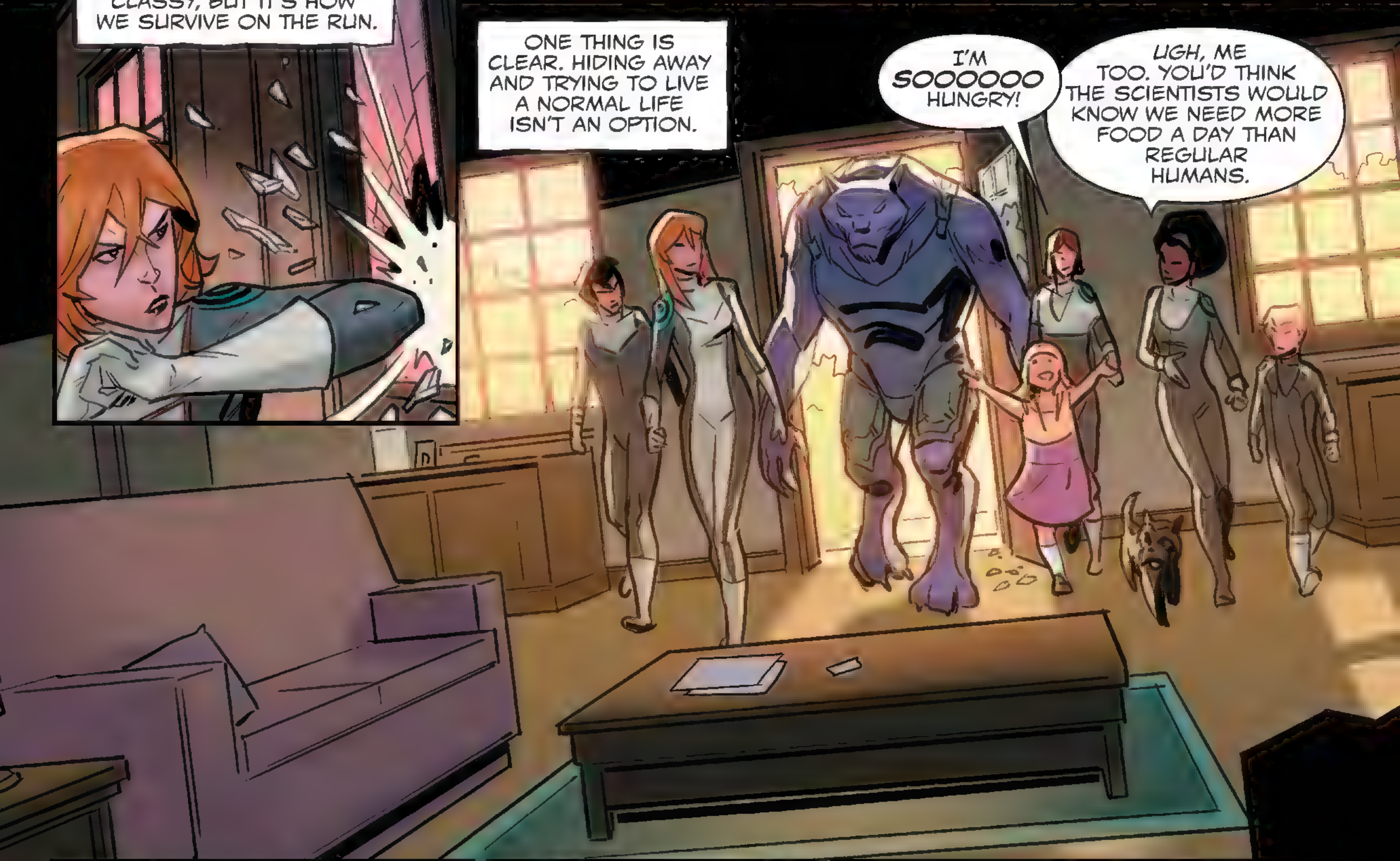


BREAKING AND ENTERING, OUR SPECIALTY. NOT CLASSY, BUT IT'S HOW WE SURVIVE ON THE RUN.

ONE THING IS CLEAR. HIDING AWAY AND TRYING TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE ISN'T AN OPTION.

I'M SOOOOOO HUNGRY!

UGH, ME TOO. YOU'D THINK THE SCIENTISTS WOULD KNOW WE NEED MORE FOOD A DAY THAN REGULAR HUMANS.

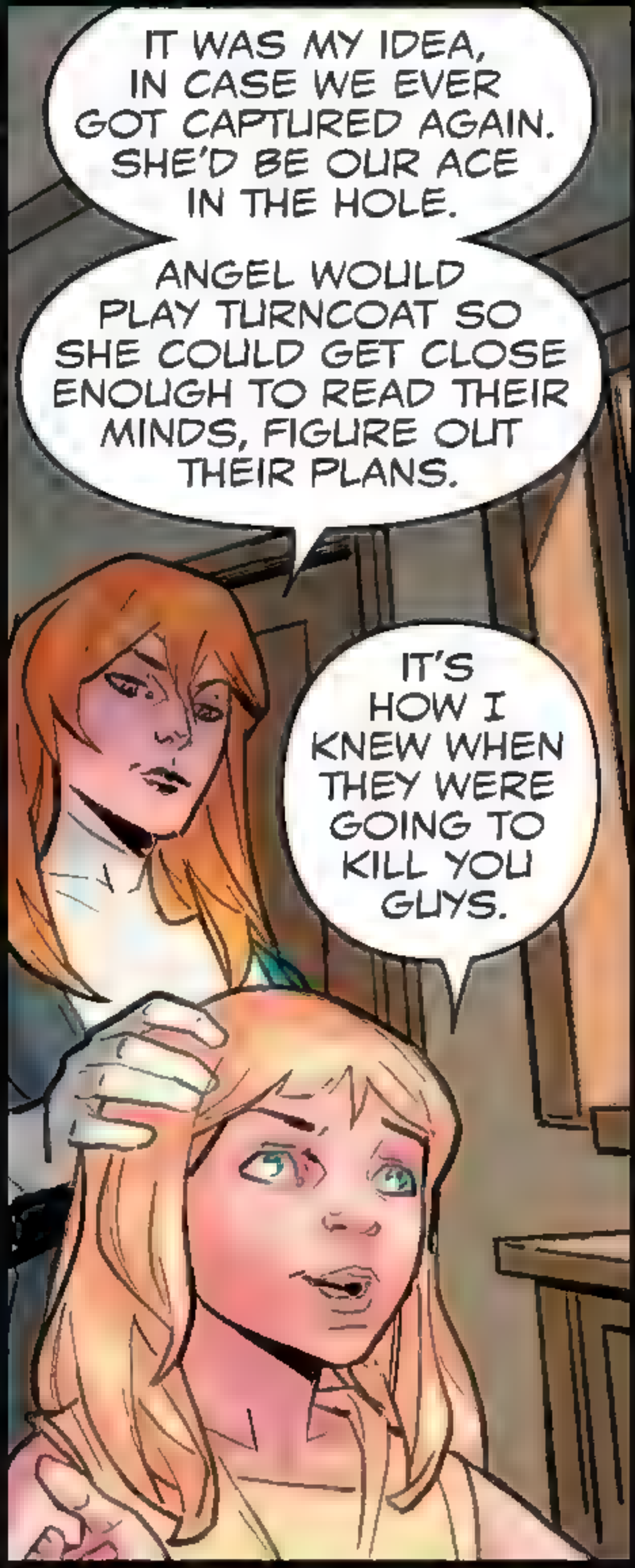


THEY'LL NEVER STOP COMING AFTER US NOW.

I CAN HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS, IGGY. I'M SORRY I MADE YOU THINK I WAS A TRAITOR.

BUT I WAS JUST PRETENDING. REALLY.

BUT WHY?



IT WAS MY IDEA, IN CASE WE EVER GOT CAPTURED AGAIN. SHE'D BE OUR ACE IN THE HOLE.

ANGEL WOULD PLAY TURNCOAT SO SHE COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO READ THEIR MINDS, FIGURE OUT THEIR PLANS.

IT'S HOW I KNEW WHEN THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU GUYS.



DON'T EAT EVERYTHING WITHOUT ME!

I'M GLAD SHE'S ACTUALLY ON OUR SIDE...





DID YOU FORGET ABOUT HOW HE ALMOST **KILLED ME?**

OF COURSE NOT. BUT HE'S CHANGED. HE WANTS TO HELP.

HE'S JUST A KID, FANG. AND HE'S DYING.



THEN IT CAN'T HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH.

FANG! YOU DON'T MEAN THAT.



I DO. YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE.

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CHOOSE.

CHOOSE?



YES. CHOOSE. THERE'S ONLY ROOM IN THIS FLOCK FOR ONE OF US.

ARI... OR ME.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT



